

AL TICKET FOR JS POLLS 90 MPs may be left out over controversies

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Around 90 of the Awami League lawmakers – about a third of the 261 AL MPs – may not get nomination in the next general election for their misdeeds and growing unpopularity, party sources said.

Corruption, nepotism, patronising party dissidents in local government polls, not staying in touch with constituents, and sidelining party leaders to favour his or her own group were key reasons for their becoming controversial.

According to the sources, more MPs from Chattogram, Barishal, and the northern region have lost party's favour than those from any other regions.

Young, popular and dedicated leaders would get party tickets in the next



PHOTO: AZIBOR RAHMAN

Who could tell there once was a river here? The Mathabhanga river in Chuadanga, which would be full to the brim some decades ago, dried up for a lack of water from the upstream since the construction of the Farakka barrage in the 1970s. It has now become a hotbed of encroachments. The photo was taken recently.

MODI-HASINA MEET

Food import, CEPA to feature high on agenda

Delhi may offer fourth line of credit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will discuss the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), guarantee of a quota for the import of seven food items, sharing of Teesta water and energy, and line of credit during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India.

Hasina is scheduled to fly to New

Delhi on September 8 to attend the G20 Summit as a special invitee of India. On the sidelines, she would be holding a bilateral meeting with Indian PM Narendra Modi, where the issues would be discussed.

The meeting will take place at Modi's official residence hours after Hasina arrives in the Indian capital, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

For the past year, Bangladesh has been negotiating with India for a guaranteed supply of seven essential commodities and this issue will also be discussed, Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier in December, Bangladesh had sought a secured supply of 45 lakh tonnes of wheat, 7 lakh tonnes

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Lavrov's visit significant on several counts

Foreign policy experts say as the Russian foreign minister flies in today

PORIMOL PALMA

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov arrives in Dhaka on a two-day visit this afternoon just months ahead of the general election amid an evolving geopolitical shift.



Foreign policy experts said the first visit to Bangladesh by any Russian foreign minister since independence explains how Russia attaches importance to the relations with Bangladesh during a difficult time in history.

With the Indo-Pacific region becoming a focus of the global powers, Russia is also exploring new friends and alliances everywhere around the world, they said.

The visit is also important for Bangladesh, which is facing pressures over elections and human rights issues from the US and other western powers, as Lavrov will potentially assure the government of its support, they noted.

"Russian foreign minister's visit to Bangladesh is important for multiple reasons – geopolitics, geoeconomics and geoenergy," said former foreign secretary Shahidul Haque.

Lavrov, who was scheduled to visit Dhaka in November last year but had to cancel it because of his schedule changes, will be flying to Dhaka after attending the East Asia Summit in Jakarta today.

He will hold an official meeting with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen in the evening. He will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tomorrow before flying to New Delhi to attend the G20 summit.

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Several surveys have been done by an intelligence agency on party grassroots and people to find which AL leaders were more likely to win in the next polls, according to party sources.

polls instead of the controversial ones. Former MPs with a long history of serving the party will also get nominations.

The sources said this time the ruling party will notify in advance the candidates who would be nominated regardless of any equations, so that it helps dissipate any possible commotion among other aspirants.

The party will make two lists of AL candidates for the upcoming polls. One will be used if the BNP does not join the polls and the other if the BNP does.

Seat-sharing with partners will also depend on the BNP's decision on the polls, sources said.

To make the polls look participatory, the ruling party will also prepare a list of 300 dummy candidates to be fielded if the BNP boycotts the polls, they said.

This will be done to avoid a repeat of the 2014 polls, in which 154 AL candidates got elected unopposed, and draw in more voters.

The sources claimed several surveys have been done by an intelligence agency on party grassroots and people to find which AL leaders were more likely to win in the next polls, and the reports suggested that about 90 incumbent MPs lost the support of the grassroots.

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PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf celebrates after dismissing Bangladesh batter Towhid Hridoy during their Asia Cup Super 4 fixture at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday. Rauf took four wickets for 19 runs in six overs as Bangladesh were bowled out for 193 in 38.4 overs. Pakistan chased down the target with seven wickets in hand and 63 balls to spare.

Tigers begin Super Four with big defeat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another batting failure saw Bangladesh succumb to a seven-wicket defeat against Pakistan in their first Asia Cup Super Four encounter at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday.

Even after playing with eight batters on a flat surface, Bangladesh were bundled out for just 193 in 38.4 overs despite fifties from skipper Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim. With no apparent scoreboard pressure, Pakistan romped to victory with 63 balls to spare as Imam-ul-Haq and Mohammad Rizwan hit fifties.

Imam survived a few close LBW calls but went to capitalise on those to reach his 19th ODI fifty. The left-handed opener scored 78 off 84, featuring five fours and four maximums, while Rizwan put the

finishing touches with an unbeaten 63 off 79.

Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam impressed yet again with his off-the-pitch movement but only had Fakhar Zaman's wicket to show for



his efforts. Taskin Ahmed claimed the crucial wicket of Babar Azam but the paltry target never seemed out of Pakistan's reach.

Bangladesh made only one change to the playing eleven that featured in their whopping 89-run

victory over Afghanistan in the previous game which eventually ensured their Super Four spot. Liton Das, who was initially ruled out of the six-nation tournament due to viral fever, replaced in-form batter Najmul Hossain Shanto, who saw his Asia Cup campaign cut short due to a hamstring injury.

Bangladesh's gambit of playing Mehedi Hasan Miraz as a makeshift opener alongside Mohammad Naim did not pay off yesterday. Miraz, who had surprised with a magnificent ton against Afghanistan just two days ago, departed for a golden duck when he chipped a Naseem Shah delivery to square leg in the second over.

Liton, having joined the squad in Lahore a day before, started brilliantly – playing some eye-pleasing drives for boundaries off Naseem Shah. The right-handed

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